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FALL 2007

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Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

inside

A HOLY PATH

Ivan Camilleri (B.Com., 1991) left the corporate world for the priesthood, a calling he became aware of while studying at Laurentian.



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“WRITE” ON CAMPUS

Science-fiction writer and honorary doctorate recipient Robert J. Sawyer set his Neanderthal series at Laurentian. Why?

DOING FLIPPIN’ GOOD BUSINESS

Lisa Kivinen (B.Sc. 1989) has a passion for gymnastics that extends to her business and community involvements – big time.



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Laurentian researcher Anne Kidd tracks down escaped farmed mink that are causing mayhem in the northern Ontario bush.

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Turning points

FROM THE EDITOR, JENNIFER NAULT



WE'VE BEEN TRAINED to expect this moment in films and novels: the turning point – the plot device from which all action springs. Following conventional story narratives, life is pretty mundane until that winning lottery ticket, new love, or trip to Tuscany ushers us into “better” realities. In the real world, our own turning points may not be quite so cinematic, but most of us can look back and identify those significant junctures in our own life histories.

In this issue, we profile several Laurentian alumni whose brave decisions have changed the trajectory of their lives. Some, in grand leaps, while others, in slow, steady increments. Our feature story on Ivan Camilleri is unquestionably of the “grand leap” variety. A Laurentian commerce grad, Camilleri took a step-by-step approach to his life and career, quickly earning much success in the telecommunications industry. But a murmur of a divine nature grew too loud to ignore. Camilleri’s life path has been circuitous, to say the least.

And there’s more. We catch up with a Laurentian honorary doctorate, Robert J. Sawyer, to find out why he set his science-fiction novels in, of all places, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (and Laurentian); and we share some rare downtime with grad Lisa Kivinen, a Sudbury gymnast and entrepreneur, whose leap of faith in herself has her running a gymnastics club, fitness centre, among other pursuits.

Of course, our lives are spent in preparation for most opportunities – it’s not all happenstance. Science enthusiast and CBC personality Bob MacDonald spoke of seizing opportunities when he received his honorary doctorate from Laurentian this fall. He humbly attributed his success to “people who offered me opportunities that I took advantage of.”

Stay tuned: We interview Bob MacDonald in the next issue.

I’d like to thank our publications team (designers, writers, photographers, and translators), contributing Laurentian departments, and freelance writers for their input and expertise in the making of this issue. You’ll notice it’s a little longer than usual. The Development Office has included additional pages highlighting and thanking Laurentian’s generous supporters in a donor report.

LETTERS

Best follow-up

I recently received a copy of the Laurentian magazine. Thank you for a good job both on this article (and pass on my thanks to writer Laura Young) and on the issue generally.

I thought I’d point out a factual mistake that crept through: “Her grandfather is Charles Best, the Nobel Prize winner who discovered insulin with Dr. Frederick Banting.” Charles Best never received the Nobel Prize. It was awarded to Banting (researcher) and Macleod (department head).

Otherwise, the timing is great, as the article came out at the same time as the beginning of NEPTUNE’s cable installation (www.neptunecanada.ca).

Cheers,
MB (Dr. Mairi M. R. Best, B.Sc. 1990)

We’re listening — really

Good job on the magazine! I love reading all the interesting articles contained. The magazine and the website are the only means that I have to find out about the goings-on at the university and its alumni.

I noticed that you were looking for graduates who did some unique jobs. My current position might fit into that description.

Last year, the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) was started up at CFB Petawawa. Due to the nature of our business, I can’t explain in detail exactly what we do.

But it’s not just me – I’d like to point out that I know of at least three Laurentian alumni who are currently working for the military in similar roles.

In a nutshell, I am the subject expert for fitness, nutrition, and physical fitness testing for the regiment. This includes working with our elite soldiers and offering them expertise to provide them with the best opportunity to be successful in their missions. Let me know if you think that my career is of interest.

Thanks, and keep up the great work!

Rick McKie, Canadian Special Operations
Regiment Fitness Coordinator, PHED, 2001

We found Rick’s letter so intriguing, we interviewed him for a story in this issue. Read his alumni profile on page 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We love hearing your take on stories we publish in the magazine.

Letters to the editor should be exclusive to Laurentian University Magazine. Please send your letters to magazine@laurentian.ca and include your name, the city where you live, and your daytime telephone number (phone numbers will not be published).

Please note that letters are published at the discretion of the editor and are subject to fact-checking and editing.

FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERS

THE WORLD IS IN A WATER CRISIS, and, for John Gunn of Laurentian University, northern Ontario must be involved in finding solutions.

“It’s real, and it’s a responsibility we take to provide science and scientists to solve this problem,” said Gunn, head to the Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit and Canada research chair in stressed aquatic systems.

The Co-Op, as it’s commonly known, took another step toward assuming that role on August 8 with a \$2-million funding announcement from the Ontario government’s Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC) Corporation for the Living with Lakes Centre.

The Living with Lakes Centre will “stimulate research, educate our students, and employ our students. It’ll really be a winner for our community,” said Laurentian president Dr. Judith Woodsworth.

This project “of paramount importance” will change the way the world views Sudbury and Laurentian University, said Rick Bartolucci, Sudbury MPP, chair of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, and Ontario minister of Northern Development and Mines (now former).

The Living with Lakes Centre needs about \$12 million to build its state-of-the-art, environmentally-friendly building. The centre will be located at the site of Laurentian’s Robertson Cottage. It will house the Co-Op, which already monitors ecosystems in the Sudbury area and is producing one of the most comprehensive databases for stressed and recovering aquatic systems in the world.

The NOHFC also gave Laurentian \$1 million toward program enhancements to the university’s school of engineering. The school will now offer a full four-year degree program in mechanical engineering.

Until this year, mechanical engineering students completed the first two years of their degree at Laurentian, then had to transfer



Catch and release – (from left to right) John Gunn, Canada research chair of stressed aquatic systems, Laurentian president Dr. Judith Woodsworth, former minister of Northern Development and Mines Rick Bartolucci, Angie Robson, CVRD Inco public affairs, and Kevin McAuley of Xstrata, celebrate funding announcements by releasing fish into Lake Ramsey in August. Laurentian recently received \$2 million toward the Living with Lakes Centre and \$1 million for the school of engineering.

schools to finish. The funding will support infrastructure and staffing requirements from the program.

Engineering enrolment is up from 156 applicants last year to 256 this year. “Laurentian is meeting the needs of our community. Engineers are in demand in industry,” said Woodsworth.

“Both these initiatives will help retain and attract youth to our region, something which is very important to our growth plan for northern Ontario,” said Bartolucci.

— Magazine staff

LIBRARY ARCHIVES ENRICHED

RESEARCHERS HAVE RECENTLY been given access to reams of information on the public school system in northern Ontario, including details on how Catholic schools have come to be publicly funded.

In October, Laurentian’s J. N. Desmarais Library, the largest library in northern Ontario, accepted a donation of fonds from Dr. Ernie Checkeris, a Sudbury school board trustee who served for 55 years.

Checkeris, who has an honorary doctorate from Thorneloe University, believes that the history of the public school system is an important lens for understanding one another, says George Sheppard, associate professor with the Laurentian school of education.

Adding texture to that understanding, Checkeris’ collection, amassed over decades serving the public school system, includes items dealing with “intensely local concerns, such as disputes over school closures and class sizes, French-language schools, and teacher pay scales in the Sudbury area, and discussions of province-wide issues, teachers’ strikes, extension of full-funding to Catholic schools, opposition to the creation of a college of teachers, and controversial government policies dealing with multiculturalism and racism,” says Sheppard.

Checkeris’ life has been about service, on the local, provincial, and national levels. Born in Toronto to Greek immigrants, Checkeris served in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. In 1945, he began his career as a school trustee in northern Ontario, serving for 55 years before his retirement in 2000.

Checkeris is a life member of the Ontario Public School Boards’ and the Canadian School Boards’ associations. He was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal for Sudbury in 2003, and the Premier’s Community Builders Award of Excellence (education category) in 2004. He was also part of the team that led the restructuring and amalgamation of eight communities into the City of Greater Sudbury.

The Checkeris fonds were officially accepted by Laurentian on October 17, 2007, when John Lundy, director of the school of education (English) and Lionel Bonin, director of the J. N. Desmarais Library, invited the Laurentian University community and media to an event honouring Checkeris and his donation.

“The Checkeris papers are important because they offer, in one place, a variety of published and unpublished items (and assorted ephemera) that are difficult or impossible to find in other settings,” says Sheppard.

— Magazine staff

Reaching out

PRESIDENT JUDITH WOODSWORTH



WE CONTINUE to celebrate growth at Laurentian University. Last year, our student population reached a record 9,100 full- and part-time students. This year, graduate student enrolment has increased by more than 20 per cent, and the first-year intake is up once again. As a result, we have added to our faculty complement, to maintain the small classes and student-centred education for which we are known.

Over the past few years, we have welcomed over 200 new faculty members, who have come from across Canada – from British Columbia to Newfoundland – and from faraway places such as India, China, France, and Morocco.

As I enter my second five-year term as president, I feel invigorated by the progress we have made and by the exciting directions we are moving in.

For those of you who haven't been on campus for a while, I offer a virtual tour: As you walk around, you will come across new buildings such as the West Residence and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. There are others, still under construction, such as the School of Education and the Ben Avery Centre addition. What you won't see quite yet is growth taking place behind the scenes; for example, the Living with Lakes Centre, a facility to house innovative research on the health of our water systems, for which we recently received a \$2 million contribution from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

We are very proud of our progress, which was borne out in a recent survey of Canada's top 50 research universities. We were ranked #1 for the year-over-year increase in research funding – more than \$38 million in funding, which represented a jump of 133 per cent from the previous year.

On the academic side, we've expanded, too. New programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels have been added to our range of offerings. We also continue to reach beyond our borders, providing education at a distance, exporting our knowledge and expertise, and enriching the lives and experience of an increasingly broad community.

I hope that you – our alumni and friends – are as excited about this as we are here on the campus. Come and see for yourself when you have some time.

RESEARCH RANKS #1

By Laura E. Young

From research into stressed aquatic systems and world water issues, mosquito traps that reduce the rate of the West Nile virus, studies addressing high rates of smoking in aboriginal youth, to helping the mining industry cope with deep mining challenges – the scope of research at Laurentian is as broad and varied as the northland the university serves.

And now the numbers back up all the research activity: According to Research Infosource Inc., which ranks Canada's top 50 universities, research at Laurentian grew 133 per cent in 2005/2006.

Research Infosource Inc. is a leading Canadian provider of research intelligence for business and higher education. In dollar terms, in 2006, Laurentian received more than \$38 million in research funding.

In 2003, Laurentian received about \$9 million in research funding.

"Fast" and "grounded" are words that come to mind when Liette Vasseur, Laurentian's associate president of research, speaks of the university's growth. And growth appears beyond the ground-breaking discoveries and work at the world-renowned Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) and CEML.

Research cuts a wide swath through northern Ontario. Cottage country in Elliot Lake? Through its Institute of Sport Marketing, SPAD, Laurentian's flagship sports administration program, is working in the former uranium-mining town, helping the city develop a cottage-country industry.

Laurentian researchers are also working to help beleaguered communities that have relied on forestry. Some members of Laurentian's Institute of Northern Ontario Research and Development (INORD) are part of a Natural Resources Canada study that is promoting economic and social development in northern Ontario. Strategies are underway for six townships with a mandate to increase the communities' control of forest ... *(continued on next page)*

STANDING CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

The Committee on Honorary Degrees for Laurentian University is now soliciting recommendations for candidates for an honorary degree on an ongoing basis. Honorary degrees are not usually awarded in absentia, posthumously, to current university personnel or to active politicians. Each year, priorities are determined by the Committee, and final selections are made by Senate by secret ballot. Also, consideration of the bilingual and tri-cultural nature of the university is an important aspect in the choice of candidates. In the past, the following honorary degrees have been awarded: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science, Doctor of Music, and Doctor of Business Administration. However, the university is not necessarily restricted to these. Nominations should be submitted on a special form, a copy which is available from the Office of the President by email, mail, fax or at http://www.laurentian.ca/Laurentian/Home/President+Office/Honorary+Degrees.htm?Laurentian_Lang=en-CA

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (705) 673-6567.



The latest look at Laurentian shows significant expansion.

inventories and to encourage change that is undertaken by the communities themselves.

Laurentian's relatively small size is a benefit, says Vasseur. "[Our] size lends itself to collaborative research and interdisciplinary research at the same time. The collaboration may be between departments, but also with industry, for example."

It's very positive for Laurentian and Sudbury, she says. "People have an image of Sudbury from the 1960s. I hope that these kinds of things can help show there have been changes."

She credits Laurentian's strategic plan for research that focuses on five key areas: mineral studies, health, SNO, the environment, and

cultural and regional development. In most cases, PhD studies are also linked to these programs. New PhD programs in boreal ecology, northern and rural health, and human studies have been added since 2005.

Laurentian faculty is involved in more than 250 funded projects in all fields, from the humanities to engineering.

Laurentian has a healthy mixture of fundamental and applied research. "You want to have a balance because fundamental research is critical for future applications, for future understanding and knowledge transfer. At the same time, applied research in all areas can be useful. It can be in terms of invention. It can be in terms of policy-making. It can be in terms of new development and prosperity."

SPAD SETS ITS SIGHTS ON BEIJING 2008



Xiaoyan Xing

By *Laura E. Young*

LAURENTIAN'S FLAGSHIP

sports administrative program is going global – this time seeking international exchanges with the largest country in the world.

In July, SPAD welcomed a delegation from China and the Capital Institute of Physical Education (CIPE) in Beijing to hammer out the first international agreement between the two institutes that would lead to collaborative research projects, student and faculty exchanges, and grants, says Norm O'Reilly, director of the school of

sports administration within the faculty of management.

"Dr. Yingchuan Li and the other two delegates showed strong interest in having joint research projects with Laurentian and appreciated the hospitality provided by the university during their visit," says Ming Qi Frank of Laurentian International, which coordinated the visit with SPAD.

Xiaoyan Xing, an assistant professor in SPAD, made the initial contact and worked with Laurentian International as part of a plan to grow international links with the school of management, says O'Reilly.

CIPE, with 300 professors and more than 3,000 students, is a university completely devoted to sport, with students studying sport journalism, management, and physiology, among other programs.

With Beijing playing host to the 2008 Olympic Games, there has been a surge of interest in enhancing knowledge around managing large-scale sport events, says Xing. She graduated from CIPE and later worked for Yingchuan Li, the current CIPE president, from 1998 to 2002. She approached Li last year with proposals for research collaboration.

Sport management is a relatively new field in China, she says. The program has been around for fewer than 10 years. SPAD, however, is Canada's oldest sport management program, having celebrated its 35th anniversary this September.

"With the successful experiences in maintaining one of the most prestigious sport management program for the sport industry in Canada and internationally, we will be able to help CIPE, and its sport management program in particular, with teaching, research, and faculty training," says Xing.

SPAD wants to work with CIPE for some obvious reasons, including the fact that China is the world's largest country, its economy is growing, and it is hosting the Olympics in 2008, says O'Reilly. Along with opportunities for student and faculty development, China has an "impressive" academic infrastructure with 82 universities in Beijing alone, O'Reilly adds.

SPAD faculty has already begun collecting and providing information to CIPE on potential joint research topics in the areas of Olympic studies, sport marketing, and sport administration.

HOOP DREAMS

Swords sets out to bring basketball success full circle

By Laura E. Young

IT'S A TYPICAL DAY for Shawn Swords, who is working out in the gym at the B. F. Avery Physical Education Centre. He's doing what he knows best – basketball.

Still, these are different days: Swords is no longer a Voyageurs player. He is the new coach of his former varsity team, replacing Virgil Hill, who returned to Vancouver last spring to spend more time with his family.

For Swords, expectations can be as stifling as the humidity in the Ben Avery. And the expectations are high. Swords' basketball history is a source of pride for Laurentian: he's the Ottawa recruit who came north to join his sister, Carolyn (who was playing for the formidable Lady Vees). Swords became the most successful male to play at Laurentian. He played professionally. He represented Canada at the Olympics.

Swords makes Irish luck seem like an actual commodity.

From the beginning, he lucked out with his coaches: As a teenager, he played for Dave Smart back when Smart was merely an Ottawa high school coach. That is to say, before Smart became head coach at Carleton, the reigning and five-time Canadian champions, and an assistant coach for the national team in 2007. Swords was also coached by Jay Triano, now with the Toronto Raptors of the NBA, and the person called on in August by American basketball Olympic management to help coach a select team.

Thanks also to the lucky break of qualifying for an Irish passport and bypassing European basketball export laws, Swords spent 15 years playing professional basketball in Europe.

He wore number 8 for Team Canada, but even number 13 was lucky: He was the 13th man on the last men's team to qualify for the Olympics, the 2000 games in Sydney. Swords played with two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash. Canada went 5–2 for seventh spot at the Olympics, its second-best Olympic finish.

The Canadian Olympic team in Sydney worked as a close unit, and now, it's that same kind of unit Swords wants to build at Laurentian. He has learned that in order to be successful team chemistry and work ethic are vital.

For Swords, an outstanding work ethic takes constant nurturing. During the season, it means players come to practice ready to work, will not skip a drill, and will treat every practice like a game. Off the court, "it comes down to training," he says.

Swords trained alone most summers, and he would work on every aspect of the game. "Every body can work when they're put in perfect conditions. It's about getting [results] when it's not easy."

Which may be the theme of Swords' first year back at Laurentian.

Over the summer, he only knew of five returning players. He started scouting as soon as he took the position, but "it's difficult this year – definitely." The OUA is the toughest conference, he says. Voyageurs' opponents include Windsor, the defending Ontario champions.

His goal has been to create a locker room of trust and respect among teammates, "not questioning, just trusting, respecting everyone around them. If I can come out of the year with that, then [the season] will have been a success."



MA IN HUMAN KINETICS

THIS FALL, LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY announced that the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies approved yet another new master's program. As of September 2007, Laurentian students are able to pursue their master's studies in human kinetics in English (MHK) or French (MAP).

Roger Couture, director of the school of human kinetics said, "We are very happy to be opening our doors to those seeking a master's degree in human kinetics. The new program will offer a focused learning experience in the field that will cater to the needs of our school's graduates."

Human kinetics is part of the faculty of professional schools at Laurentian University. Programs are tailored to meet needs in kinesiology, health, physical activity, and sport.



Tammy Eger

According to the program coordinator, Tammy Eger, "the MHK/MAP will prepare students for careers in research, health, teaching, and industry." Eger also indicated that students interested in applied learning will have the opportunity to experience an internship experience for a three-month duration.

Since 2003, Laurentian has created its first six PhD programs and has significantly increased its master's programs, almost doubling graduate study possibilities in the North.

— Magazine staff



Laurentian University and Laurentian's rowing club made waves on the waters of Lake Ramsey for the fifth year of the university's learn-to-row program early this fall.

ROWING ON THE RISE

By *Laura E. Young*

WITH ALL THE WATER around Laurentian University, it seemed logical to organizers that the university establish a rowing tradition.

All they needed was a catalyst, that extra something, or someone, to take the weeks of training for learners to the next level. Then, Amanda Schweinbenz took a teaching position in human kinetics. She came to Laurentian to finish her doctoral thesis (through UBC) on the history of women's rowing. She brings more than 16 years of competitive rowing and coaching experience at the highest levels in Canada.

"I've been a part of [rowing] for so long it just feels that that is what I should be doing and contributing to the university as well. It's exciting because it's new to this university," Schweinbenz says.

Schweinbenz, who teaches the socio-historical aspects of sport, trained three competitive rowers last year; two of them competed as women's double, winning a silver medal in the novice event at the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) championship race.

Laurentian operates a rowing club through the Sudbury Rowing Club. Five years ago, when the club began, it offered a learn-to-row program that included a fun regatta in late September.

When Dr. Judith Woodsworth became Laurentian president, she was recruited to the rowing club. In her name, the Woodsworth Plate was awarded to regatta winners. Woodsworth also started hosting the regatta party at her home.

The Laurentian rowing club began with about 24 people. This year, 50 people participated in the learn-to-row program. Already, six women have joined Schweinbenz's competitive arm of the club.

For the third year in a row, Laurentian fielded crews in the five-kilometre long "Head of the Trent" regatta in Peterborough. This will be the first season, however, that a team comprised of Laurentian students raced in the recreational division against other university rowing teams.

The vision is to promote rowing for young people in northern

Ontario, "with the expectation they will do well," says Shannon Hengen, chair of the English department who, along with Charlotte Leonard of music, established the learn-to-row club program at Laurentian.

"We've got the water and Laurentian has the history and a tradition of excellence in sport," Hengen adds.

The goal is to have rowing included as an OUA-sanctioned sport within five years, says Schweinbenz.

To do so will take a lot of support, including continued partnership with the Sudbury Rowing Club, says Hengen. "But we're hopeful. It's been a very positive experience. It's a great event for students."

CAMPUS QUIZ

How much do you really know about your university?

What did alumnus Rick McKie donate to help a family in Bosnia?

Send the correct answer to magazine@laurentian.ca with the subject line "Fall 07 Trivia" before December 31, 2007 and we'll enter your name in a draw for a Laurentian gift pack. Good luck!

Congratulations go to Michael Hodgson (BSW 1978) who entered our last Campus Quiz contest. He won the draw and will receive some great Laurentian swag for submitting Shawn Swords' name as the new coach of the Voyageurs' men's basketball team.

THE CALL

BY SHIRLEY MOORE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JO-ANNE MCARTHUR

For Ivan Camilleri, the path to priesthood was a long one. He felt the pull of “the call,” but he didn’t turn in his cushy downtown office right away.

After a decade of success in the business world, Ivan Camilleri finally embraced his true vocation in life. Camilleri became one of six new priests ordained in Toronto this past May. He is now serving at a Roman Catholic parish in Mississauga, but the seeds of his calling were planted when he was a student at Laurentian.

Father Ivan Camilleri’s first clear feeling of wanting to become a priest took place when he was a commerce student at Laurentian (B.Com., 1991). He was in his apartment, pouring over his books, working into the late hours.

“I was preparing a business case or something and I suddenly had this sort of ... maybe I wanted to be somewhere else, because I didn’t want to be doing homework at 2 in the morning,” he jokes.

The Roman Catholic Church says that priests are called by God to enter the priesthood; it’s considered a vocation. Camilleri’s experience echoes that belief.

“I sort of describe it as the feeling you get when you’re homesick. It’s almost this nauseating feeling, a longing to be home. But for me, it was more this longing to serve God. It was sort of a gut feeling.”

He never told anyone about it at the time, and instead, he tried to strike a “bargain” with God. All of his friends were applying to companies and beginning their careers, and Camilleri wanted to join the pack. He says he was “competitive.”

“I told God, ‘Okay, I’m almost finished, let me finish this degree, and we’ll come back and talk about it,’” he laughs.

He dated, just like “anyone else” and says, “The priesthood was always in the back of my head, so I would say never with a full commitment ... but yeah, you find people you’re interested in, and you go out with them.”

Camilleri, now 38, graduated from his bachelor of commerce in 1991, specializing in finance, but he avoided “the talk” at that point. Instead, he did his MBA at the Edinburgh Business School in Scotland, graduating in 1992.

When he graduated, the country was in the midst of a recession and jobs were scarce, but it took Camilleri only three weeks to find a position as a manager of business analysis with Worldlinks Telecommunications, a subsidiary of Bell Canada Enterprises (BCE). It was a corporate finance job in Toronto – a far cry from the priesthood.



Before joining the priesthood, Ivan Camilleri looked down at the street below from these corporate office windows in downtown Toronto.



At BCE, Camilleri helped launch new products, including the communications service now known as Sympatico. Now, he works as associate pastor at a Mississauga parish.

Speaking from behind his desk at his parish in Mississauga, Camilleri obviously hasn't forgotten his first life. He is still comfortable discussing mergers and acquisitions. He uses such terms as "operational issues," "intellectual property rights," and "patent exploitation" to describe some of the work he did.

It's intriguing to see him in a white collar and traditional black shirt and pants, discussing multi-million-dollar deals. His desk is clear of paper and his rosary is neatly coiled up near the centre. A small plastic dinosaur sits in one corner of his desk, there to occupy children while he speaks with the parents.

As the recently appointed associate pastor at Merciful Redeemer Parish, he serves a large congregation in a relatively new parish, just around the corner from a shopping mall in the midst of suburbia. He counsels parishioners and holds masses, funerals, weddings, and baptisms.

In his last career, Camilleri was quite successful, and he grudgingly admits that fact. At BCE, he helped launch new products such as Navigo (now called Sympatico) and three of their subsidiaries.

At BCE Place in downtown Toronto, he would often see homeless people sleeping on the subway grates outside his building. He remembers one meeting on a multi-million-dollar deal that sparked debate over a patent that Camilleri says amounted to "maybe a few hundred thousand dollars." People were arguing about the deal and it was "going nowhere."

The irony hit home for him.

"I just remember looking out the window and seeing this homeless guy outside. I thought to myself, 'How is this discussion helping that homeless guy who's sitting on the grate?' There are all sorts of small moments of conversion, where you're called to think about what you're doing."

Camilleri's work led to a transfer in 1997 to another company owned by BCE: Nortel. There, Camilleri was a director of finance in business transformation, working on intellectual property rights and acquisitions.

He got bored easily and began wondering if he needed a change. He ended up taking what he calls his "dream job" with Marconi, a British-based corporation. He got to sit in on major acquisitions, and he helped integrate those companies after Marconi acquired them. He liked his boss, made good money, had the "big office," but still, something was missing.

He contacted the archdiocese of Toronto and was connected with a spiritual director, Father Tim Hanley, a priest who used to work as a chartered accountant. It was a good match.

"There's a part of Father Ivan that enjoyed his work and there's another part that saw him searching ... searching for fulfillment," says Hanley. He asked Camilleri to pray and ask God what he was meant to do.

For Camilleri, "it was sort of a scary decision to make, and there was a lot of inertia to not make a decision," he laughs. "Ultimately, I was advised to take a year off, try this out, and if I didn't like it, I could go back to my job."

During six years at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, Camilleri studied canon law, bioethics, theology, church history, psychology, and philosophy. He took classes at the University of Toronto and learned about being a priest at the seminary.

He got a chance to work with the homeless at a soup kitchen at St. Michael's Cathedral in downtown Toronto. Camilleri would stand in line to make sure no one got too rowdy, and he also got a chance to learn people's stories.

"There was this one guy in particular; I always wondered what his story was. He never told me and I never wanted to pry, but he spoke Italian fluently, French fluently, other languages fluently."

"You'd have these incredible intellectual conversations with him about social policy and what the government is doing. [He had] an incredible mind, but you could tell he was content being a street person. He chose to live on the street. I don't know what his past was ... you meet all these people who you never think you'd meet who are homeless."

The most important thing he learned in the seminary though, he says, was about himself.

"Who I am called to be, what my relationship with God is, what's important to me. Before I used to think it was money and success – and money," he muses, "but now, really, it's [about] the other person."

"I feel I was called to give of myself to others: How I can help someone in need, as opposed to what I can get out of it. So you learn these things about yourself: What makes you happy, what gives you energy in life, what makes you want to wake up in the morning and be a happy person."

He admits one thing priests have to deal with is celibacy. He refers to it as an "interesting mystery."

"I don't think God asks you to do anything that he's not going to help you deal with ... It's not some kind of a morbid sacrifice we do, like starving ourselves, but [it's about] what truly brings you peace and joy in your life. Being able to love God in such a way that you give yourself totally to him and you're able to obtain that intimacy with God."

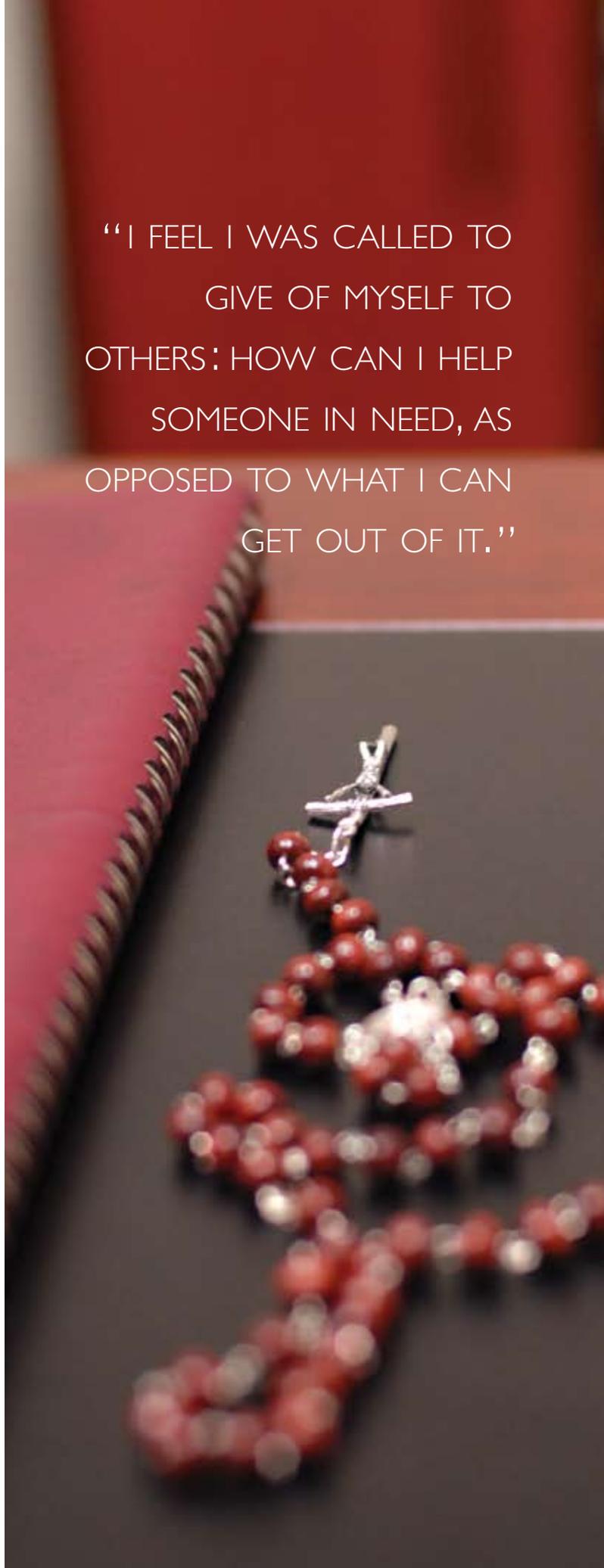
Camilleri has, at times, set boundaries between himself and others. Priests have to be careful, he says.

"If someone comes to the office, you have to make a judgment call. You have to be able to give people what they need in terms of pastoring to them, but you have to be careful that it's not misinterpreted."

"He is a very caring and intuitive person," says Father Hanley. "He brings a natural ability to identify with people. For instance, he's not effusive, but he quietly seems to know what needs to be said and when to say it. It's a tremendous gift for pastoral ministry."

And that's the gift Ivan Camilleri uses now. He says he wants to be a "simple priest." ■

Shirley Moore works as a journalist and writer in Toronto.



"I FEEL I WAS CALLED TO
GIVE OF MYSELF TO
OTHERS: HOW CAN I HELP
SOMEONE IN NEED, AS
OPPOSED TO WHAT I CAN
GET OUT OF IT."

NEANDERTHALS ON CAMPUS

BY LAURA E. YOUNG

Chapter One

DAY ONE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2
148/103/24

The blackness was absolute.

Watching over it was Louise Benoit, twenty-eight, a statuesque postdoc from Montreal with a mane of thick brown hair stuffed, as required here, into a hair net. She kept her vigil in a cramped control room, buried two kilometers—"a mile an' a quarder," as she sometimes explained for American visitors in an accent that charmed them—beneath the Earth's surface.

The control room was next to the deck above the vast, unilluminated cavern housing the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory. Suspended in the center of that cavern was the world's largest acrylic sphere, twelve meters—"almost forty feet"—across. The sphere was filled with eleven hundred tonnes of heavy water on loan from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Robert Sawyer's connection with Laurentian University began when the author floated a Neanderthal scientist in the heavy water of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO). The relationship deepened this past June when Laurentian University awarded Sawyer, one of Canada's most successful science-fiction writers, with an honorary doctorate of letters.

This is his first honorary doctorate.

"I was flattered, delighted and, frankly, stunned because science-fiction writers are not known for getting the most respect," said Sawyer, whose Neanderthal Parallax Trilogy: *Hominids* (2002), *Humans* (2003) and *Hybrids* (2003) is set at SNO – and all around Sudbury – with jaunts to the Tim Hortons and labs at Laurentian University.

"Science-fiction writers do better in Canada than we do in the United States, but in general, people who are not familiar with the actual work tend to look down on the field." He was pleased that the nomination came from a department other than English (the nomination came from Michael Emond, a professor in the psychology department). "I like to think that science fiction is a truly multidisciplinary genre."

Sawyer has published 17 novels, which appear in 13 languages.

Introducing Sawyer during the convocation ceremony, Emond hailed him as one of the most successful science-fiction writers in the world. Sawyer has won the "triple crown of science fiction," said Emond, listing an award from the World Science Fiction Society, the Hugo Award for Best Novel of the Year (for *Hominids*); the Nebula Award from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (for *The Terminal Experiment*); and the John W.

Book excerpt from the introduction of *Hominids*,
Copyright 2002 by Robert J. Sawyer.



photo: Carolyn Clink

Robert J. Sawyer has won the triple crown of science fiction writing, publishing 17 novels that appear in 13 languages. He recently claimed the Galaxy award, China's top science-fiction award for most popular foreign author.

Campbell Memorial Award, Best Novel of the Year (for *Mindscan*). Such acclaim is tantamount to an actor winning the Oscars, Golden Globe, and Tony Awards, Emond stated.

It was fitting for Laurentian to honour Sawyer because, not only does he set his stories in Canada, he chose the university as the backdrop for his bestselling Neanderthal series. Emond continued, "He honoured Laurentian in his novels. It's only fitting we honour him in our school history."

Sawyer began the Neanderthal series by researching the history of these ancient peoples, whose physical adaptations allowed them to survive a harsh, cold climate. Sawyer began seeking an authentic setting – and northern Ontario must have been too hard to resist. Sawyer speculated that, in a parallel world, the highly sophisticated Neanderthals might build a mine around the mineral-rich Sudbury area.

And, why wouldn't they?

From that starting point, it took less than a day for Sawyer to "go from that basic notion to homing in on the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory. It was so obviously the right spot. It's such a dramatic location, and it served the plot so well."

The premise of Sawyer's Neanderthal series begins on a parallel Earth inhabited only by Neanderthals. Our human species has ceased to exist, but our planet Earth remains. Through an experiment gone awry on the Neanderthal side, a bridge between their universe and our Earth opens in the SNO lab near Sudbury.

Sawyer himself made it to Sudbury by more conventional means of transport. At the convocation ceremony, beaming

and clearly enjoying himself, he told the graduating class that the future of the human species is in their hands. "You're up to the task. You live in the greatest country in the world. You're graduating from one of the greatest universities. Work as much as you can to make the world a better place for everyone."

It could be said that Sawyer's contribution toward making the world "a better place" comes by way of his ability to flip reality, imagining other worlds, other possibilities. Fans of his work speak about the fresh perspective his stories bring to everyday "reality."

His readers don't have to wait long for new material, either. For Sawyer, the ideas keep coming. He has moved on from his Neanderthal trilogy, having wrapped up writing in 2003. "You're sick of it" by then, he admits. He spent spring 2007 promoting his new novel, *Rollback*. Then, over the summer, he retreated to the Pierre Berton House in the Yukon to begin his next book.

Unlike many science-fiction writers – including Canadian darling William Gibson – Sawyer devotes little ink to dystopic themes. Instead, his stories propose a positive view of the future, a reflection of his personal philosophy of life. "It's not forced," he says. "I think that writers who try to do anything other than what they actually believe come off as manipulative and forced ... I am disposed to think the future is going to be a wonderful place." 

Laura E. Young is a journalist living in Sudbury.

WORLDS CONVERGE FOR TWO LAURENTIAN HONORARY DOCTORATES

Robert J. Sawyer's faith in humanity and the future comes in part from his upbringing. With an American-born mother, his family watched and supported the growing American civil rights movement in the 1960s. Minnijean Brown Trickey, a member of the Little Rock Nine in 1957, is one of Sawyer's heroes. The famous civil-rights activist was on the Laurentian campus at the same time as Sawyer, and, like him, she was there to receive an honorary doctorate.

"Trickey went to school every day in a hotly racist atmosphere," Sawyer reflects, finding it hard to believe that "it used to be normal to discriminate on the basis of skin colour." In just 50 years, things have vastly improved, which is incredible to Sawyer. He says, "How can you not be positive about the potential of human beings to make the world a better place?"



Laurentian student Jason Pelletier trained with Lisa Kivinen and qualified for the Canadian tumbling championships this year.



A POWERFUL BALANCE

Though she directs the Laurels, she's not content to rest on them. Writer Laura E. Young shares some rare downtime with Sudbury gymnast and entrepreneur Lisa Kivinen to find out how she pulls it all off.

She knew if she wanted to promote gymnastics in northern Ontario she had to take some risks.

Lisa Kivinen (B.Sc. 1989) is used to swallowing fear and taking risky moves: Back in 1978, she became the first northern Ontario gymnast to land a double-twist layout somersault. In this movement, now considered relatively straightforward on the competitive level, the gymnast completes a somersault in the layout position with two full twists before landing.

A movement that's barely easier said than done.

"I felt special, for sure, but, because I was the only one, and when you're younger like that it makes you think, 'Why am I the only one? Should I be a little bit afraid?'" she recounts. "But, anyway, I did it."

After five years as a competitor, Kivinen moved into coaching and judging and then changed her focus. She wanted to give northern Ontario gymnasts what the sport had given her.

Over the past 30 years, she has helped transform a parent board of volunteers into a business, and is now the director of Sudbury-based GymZone Family Fitness Centre and the Sudbury Laurels gymnastics club, and, most recently, a member of the board of directors at Gymnastics Ontario. She also sits on the board of governors at Laurentian University, Sudbury Sportlink (the city's sport council), as well as the taskforce working to improve the disintegrating outdoor running track at Laurentian. Not content to stop there, Kivinen is also a committee member for Sudbury's proposed multi-use sports complex and performing arts centre.

When she began coaching in the 1980s, there were about 300 gymnasts in the Sudbury Laurels. Now, the club has more than 1,000 members, with about 5,000 people coming through GymZone each year for a variety of programs, including dance and martial arts.

Yes, the numbers are amazing, Kivinen says. People are becoming aware of the benefits of gymnastics – the sport "helps with spatial awareness, improves control over the body's centre of gravity, and develops flexibility and strength," she says.

"That's what this [sport] does for every child ... it builds their confidence and makes them more likely to participate in other sports. That's what we do best."

She coaches Denis Vachon, the head power tumbling coach at Burlington B.G.'s, who is a Canadian power tumbling and mini-trampoline champion. He is ranked 20th in world power tumbling. She also coached Laurentian students Jason Pelletier and Sylvain Bastien to the 2007 Canadian tumbling championships.

Vachon says he still consults Kivinen because "Lisa is a technical genius. She is a gift to coaching in Canada."

The actual business of gymnastics is not something just anyone could do, he believes. Kivinen is willing to learn, and not afraid to ask for help, he says. "She's the whole package and Sudbury gymnastics is really lucky she's there. It wouldn't have been the same without her."

Kivinen takes any praise quietly in stride, saying that Sudbury needed the gym. "When I sit back and think about where we were and where we are today, I think it's great. But it wasn't easy." She remembers the number of times the club moved while trying to find space to accommodate the growing sport. The Laurels moved so frequently during the 1990s, the moving company was kept permanently on speed dial.

In order to manage the growing pains they needed a good business plan, something she felt was too much to ask of busy parent volunteers. Instead, a management company was brought in to take over the business side of the gym. GymZone is the management company for the not-for-profit Sudbury Laurels Gymnastics Club.

The Sudbury Laurels was one of the early pioneers in the business of gymnastics in Ontario. "We had only ourselves to rely on. If we wanted a future for gymnastics, we had to take some risks. In order to take some risks, we had to have a business that could go to the bank and borrow money to renovate, [improve] the equipment, and invest in further training."

She went for it, and GymZone Family Fitness Centre was founded in 1999. "I had a university degree. Not that it was in business or anything like that, but I knew gymnastics ... and I didn't really think twice. I just did it."

Gymnastics is all about building on skills. Kivinen has done that, going from athlete to coach and judge. Now, on the board of Gymnastics Ontario, she envisions Sudbury as a centre of gymnastics excellence. "Competitive gymnastics will never be our only focus, but because we do it so well, it's a natural fit."

Kivinen's passion for gymnastics fuels her commitment to sport and community on



Lisa Kivinen is one of many in the Sudbury community seeking to enhance the city's sports infrastructure.

a larger scale. Her gym staff, mom (also Lisa Kivinen), and friends help her pull it all off, she says. Her husband, Todd Lahti, and Alexandra Swanson, her 16-year-old daughter, are her backbone.

She has "the ability to see the entire, big picture and how everything fits," says Kellie Hinnells, technical director of Gymnastics Ontario, who has known Kivinen for seven years. She sees the whole child, "not just the end result," Hinnells adds. For Kivinen, "a problem is an opportunity," Hinnells adds.

Though the issue of gym space remains, Kivinen keeps looking ahead. "We have hired some really great staff ... my staff can listen. You know, it is a business, but it's also grassroots. We're in it for the development of gymnastics in the community."

Gymnastics has been her passion since Kivinen, at 10 years of age, watched Nadia Comaneci achieve perfect scores in seven events at the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympic Games. "It made me say, 'I want to do that. I want to learn that. It's beautiful, yet it's powerful and dynamic all at the same time.'" ■

MINDING THE mink

Laurentian scientists make a breakthrough in research on the environmental impact of mink ranching in Canada.

BY SAMANTHA KUULA



When farmed animals cut loose: Mink farming began operating in Canada in the late 1800s. Ranch-raised mink are affecting the wild mink population.

“All I want to do is to make a difference.” The passion in Laurentian science student Anne Kidd’s voice is striking as she explains why she has chosen to focus on mink for her master’s degree. Farming is nothing new to Kidd, who grew up on a beef farm in Peterborough, Ontario. Throughout her studies, she has focused on wildlife conservation, and her first opportunity to contribute to the field in a tangible way came early, when she was an undergrad at Trent University. There, she played an important role in curtailing Ontario’s import of bait frogs in an effort to prevent the spread of the *Rana* virus, a pathogen that had destroyed several frog populations in central Ontario.

Now, Kidd has turned her interest in protecting biodiversity to larger animals – but not much larger. She was hired to research wild mink populations in Canada under the supervision of Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde, an evolutionary biologist at Laurentian (who gained notoriety for his studies on the reproductive fitness of flying squirrels – or, “squirrel sex”). In studying both farmed and wild mink populations, she has encountered environmental issues akin to the way in which farmed Atlantic salmon is affecting the salmon fishery.

In the scientific journal *Biological Conservation*, a report on the mink study suggests that escaped ranch mink have a detrimental effect on wild mink populations. Initiating the study, Schulte-Hostedde was motivated by childhood

memories of visiting a mink farm with his parents. He hired Kidd for her extensive background in conservation ecology and what he calls her “rural sensibility.” Kidd says she was drawn to Laurentian because she was interested in conducting research on a species whose natural biodiversity is at risk – and she wanted to work with the well-regarded Schulte-Hostedde.

The research was all-consuming. With the assistance of Jeff Bowman, a Laurentian alumnus now teaching at Trent University, Kidd studied mink population trends by culling national data from Statistics Canada dating back to 1952, as well as extensive records from fur auction houses. Though there were many entries to evaluate, the numbers proved that ranch-raised mink do, indeed, break out of their enclosures, directly contributing to declines in the wild population. In fact, the team discovered that escaped ranch-raised mink contribute to wild mink declines in two key ways: they weaken the gene pool by introducing maladaptive genes and they introduce disease to the wild populations.

Mink farming has deep roots in Canada, with the first mink farms operating in the late 1800s. The mink industry divides itself into two distinct phases. The first is the livestock-selling phase, which lasted until the late 1930s. The second is the pelt-production phase, taking us to the present day. Kidd’s research concentrated on the second phase.



Anne Kidd's research into wild and ranch-raised mink is groundbreaking and is a key step in maintaining Canada's biodiversity.

Because of their short lifespan (three to six years) and long history of domesticity, mink in Canada have undergone many generations of inbreeding and artificial selection, leading to traits that are not suited to the natural environment. Domesticated mink have mainly been bred for desired pelt colours. Such selective breeding has led to specific traits, including aggression, reduced brain size, reduced size differences between males and females, and increased litter size.

Quite simply, ranch-raised mink and wild mink should not breed. But they have, and likely for many years. Breeding between ranch-raised and wild mink has led to the introduction of maladaptive genes to wild mink, thinning the wild population.

Disease is another problem escaped ranch-raised mink bring to wild populations. Aleutian disease, the worst infectious disease affecting ranch-raised mink, is present in the blood, bone marrow, spleen, feces, urine, and saliva of infected animals. It is transmitted either directly or by contact with contaminated food, fleas, water, or equipment.

Escape of ranch-raised mink must be widespread and significant to be the cause of declines in wild populations. The research team turned to population densities and spatial patterns of wild mink harvested by trappers, comparing findings to those of ranch-raised mink. They found that more "wild" mink were trapped in locations around mink ranches, a clear sign that escaped mink made up a large proportion of those trapped.

According to their findings, there is immediate cause for concern over escaped ranch-raised mink and their effect on wild populations. The study calls for regulations in North America to curb the escape of ranch mink. Kidd and Schulte-Hostedde are continuing their research, and are now able to genetically identify ranch-raised mink, wild mink, and their hybrid offspring in the field. Their research, still in progress, is groundbreaking in the study of maladaptive genes and is an important step toward protecting Canada's natural biodiversity. **I**

Samantha Kuula is a science communications graduate student at Laurentian University.

MORE ON MINK

SPECIAL FEATURES: Mink have short legs, long necks and trunks, and small, sharply, pointed faces with small ears. Mink are semi-aquatic mammals; they have dense, oily underfur for protection in the water.

FOOD: Muskrat, mice, fish, frogs, crayfish, insects such as water beetles and various waterfowl and shorebirds.

DENNING: Muskrat and beaver bank burrows and lodges; under trees, rock, and brush.

PREDATORS: Bobcats, lynxes, coyotes, foxes, wolves, river otters, eagles, and larger hawks and owls.

DISTRIBUTION: All provinces and territories.

MATURITY: 10 to 12 months.

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN: 3 to 6 years.

HABITAT: Areas with plenty of water supply, like marshes or slow streams with good cover along edges, and lakes.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES:

Mink are sensitive to environmental pollutants, especially in lakes and streams.

Information from the Fur Institute of Canada.

LAURENTIAN CONTINUES ITS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN

MADAGASCAR

This past May, Annyck Ratiarson, a biology professor at Laurentian University since 1989, received a \$1-million contribution to better equip Madagascar in its fight against AIDS and cervical cancer. A few months later, Ratiarson undertook a trip to Madagascar, her native country, to begin a five-year collaborative research program at the University of Fianarantsoa.

According to Ratiarson, the mission emphasizes cooperative work and contributes toward international development. "A project such as this one will have an important impact on improving access to health care and improving health, as well as on the country's general growth," says Ratiarson. She is collaborating with the Sudbury Regional Hospital, as well as the University of Fianarantsoa, and its vice-president, Paul Razafiman-dimby.

Last summer, Ratiarson and her team laid the groundwork for the project, setting up laboratory equipment, developing courses for the University of Fianarantsoa, and increasing awareness of her work and goals with the locals. Pap test screening, an important prevention tool against cervical cancer, began this fall in Madagascar.

Ratiarson is profoundly concerned about the prevalence of cervical cancer among women in her native country. "Cancer is the leading cause of death over there. This represents a significant obstacle to women's emancipation," she attests. In addition to helping women, she also wants to improve overall health care in the mountainous region of Fianarantsoa.

Liette Vasseur, Laurentian's associate vice-president of research, is proud of Laurentian University's contribution to international development and, in particular, the improvement of health conditions in underdeveloped countries. "Partnership programs between universities allow our institution and our professors to achieve international recognition while contributing in a positive way to sustainable development," says Vasseur.

In the last several years, Laurentian University has organized and managed numerous research partnerships and has cooperated on an ongoing basis with a wide range of universities and countries from around the world. More recently, Laurentian has participated in development projects in China, Congo, Russia, Mexico, and Burkina Faso.

— Magazine staff



Annyck Ratiarson

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES: departmental and professor updates

DR. ROGER PITBLADO SHEDS LIGHT ON CANADIAN HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

A former Laurentian professor is part of the first major Canadian study on the distribution of the majority of Canadian health care workers.

“These analyses of our health human resources’ distribution and migration patterns are important because they reflect on some of the most critical issues related to the quality of health services in our country: recruitment, retention, and accessibility,” says **Dr. Roger Pitblado**, a retired geographer and a senior research fellow of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research. He is the principal investigator.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) has released a series of reports shedding light on the internal movement of Canada’s health care workforce, called *The Distribution and Internal Migration of Canada’s Health Care Workforce*.

The study follows the migration of physicians and nurses, as well as 25 occupational groups, including laboratory technicians, audiologists, physiotherapists, dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, and ambulance attendants.

HONORARY DOCTORATES FOR PAINTER AND PEACEMAKER



This fall, **James Loney** received an honorary doctorate from Thorneloe University for his “promotion of understanding, justice, peace, and respect for all persons in the human community,”

said Thorneloe University in a press release. Loney, a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, was held hostage with three others in Iraq in 2005–2006 for 118 days.

The University of Sudbury also awarded highly acclaimed Ojibwa artist **Norval Morrisseau** an honorary doctorate in Sacred Letters. Morrisseau was honoured for his significant contributions to Canadian, Native, and mainstream art, according to a University of Sudbury press release. “His creative focus on spiritual values and meaning, as well as his social commitment to the service of others, are core values that resonate with our university’s mission and vision.”

Also during the Thorneloe convocation ceremonies, an honorary fellowship was awarded to **Ruth Loukidelis**, a long-time friend and supporter of Thorneloe University. She has always promoted the value of education and the goals of the Loukidelis Trust, a fund set up by her late husband and former Thorneloe Chancellor, Spyros Loukidelis. Her generosity in aid of the arts, health initiatives, the environment, and Classics (the aim of the Loukidelis Trust) are important in the Sudbury community.

DR. GARY KINSMAN WINS LAURENTIAN’S RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr. Gary Kinsman, full professor in the sociology department, is the recipient of Laurentian University’s Research Excellence Award for 2006–2007. The annual award honours a faculty member whose research contributes significantly to the reputation and prestige of the university.

Kinsman is one of Canada’s leading specialists on the sociology and history of sexual regulation and an authority on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues.

As well as his impressive record of published work, including three books, Kinsman is also known for his contribution to the development of the new research methodology of political activist ethnography. His approach maps the social relations of struggles against injustice and also produces transformative knowledge about the social world for activists and social movements.

DR. MICHAEL PERSINGER RECEIVES 2007 LEADERSHIP IN FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Michael Persinger, professor in the Laurentian psychology department, and coordinator of the behavioural neuroscience program, was one of 100 teachers across Ontario colleges and universities who received the inaugural Leadership in Faculty Teaching Award (LIFT), from the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities.

“We are pleased to see one of our professors recognized for his performance in the classroom,” said Laurentian University president Judith Woodsworth. “We congratulate Dr. Persinger on this award.”

“The very fact that we at Laurentian University received this award, as well as the TVO Award, indicates that we can compete very effectively with our colleagues to the south,” Persinger said.

Persinger has been teaching at Laurentian University since 1971. Last year, he won TVOntario’s Best Lecturer Competition.

The ministry recognizes faculty who demonstrate leadership in teaching methods for the diverse student body of Ontario. Each LIFT award winner will receive \$20,000 over two years to contribute toward continued student learning.

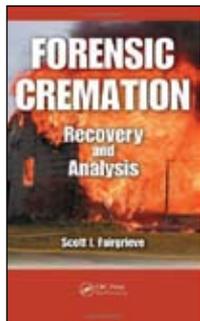
DR. LAXMAN AMARATUNGA WINS TECK COMINCO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD



Dr. Laxman Amaratunga, an engineering professor at Laurentian, received the Teck Cominco Environmental Award at the Conference of Metallurgist and the “COPPER 2007”

Symposium of the Metallurgical Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (CIM). (continued on page 21)

Books and Publications by Laurentian faculty and alumni



FORENSIC CREMATION RECOVERY AND ANALYSIS

Scott I. Fairgrieve

Scott I. Fairgrieve is regularly sought out internationally to consult on cases of cremation homicides and has given expert witness testimony both in Canada and the United States for prosecution and defense. His latest book, *Forensic Cremation Recovery and Analysis*, provides a methodical approach to the use of forensic anthropological analysis to cremated human remains. Currently serving as chair of the department of forensic science at Laurentian

University, Fairgrieve is also founding director of the forensic osteology laboratory in that same department, as well as forensic anthropology consultant to the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario through the Northeastern Ontario Regional Forensic Pathology Unit.



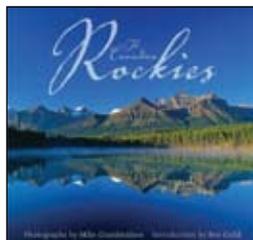
CANADIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE: TRANSLATION AND TRANSCULTURATION / ÉCHANGES CULTURELS AU CANADA: TRADUCTION ET TRANSCULTURATION

Norman Cheadle and Lucien Pelletier, eds.

Canadian Cultural Exchange / Échanges culturels au Canada is a bilingual book composed of essays exploring the interaction of cultures in Canada. It is co-edited by two Laurentian

professors, Dr. Norman Cheadle, professor of Hispanic studies, and Dr. Lucien Pelletier, professor of philosophy. It presents 18 essays written either in English or French. Each perspective provides a nuanced view of Canadian transcultural experience. It discusses, from various perspectives, Canadian cultural space as being in process of continual translation of both the other and oneself.

Contributing authors include Laurentian University president Dr. Judith Woodsworth, English professor Laurence Steven, and Modern Languages and Literatures professor Carol Stos. *Canadian Cultural Exchange / Échanges culturels au Canada* is published by Wilfred Laurier University Press.

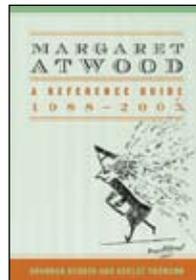


THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

Forward by Ben Gadd; Photographs by Mike Grandmaison

This book is a breathtaking photographic portrait of Canada's Rocky Mountains, with stunning landscapes. Stretching all the way across Canada's West and extending into the United States, the flora and fauna of the Rocky Mountains is as diverse as it is beautiful. This book captures the

heart and soul of the entire Rocky Mountain region in dazzling detail. Celebrated photographer and Laurentian alumnus Mike Grandmaison captures the Rockies, drawing from a large selection of never-before published images of the mountains, including grand landscapes and majestic views. His photographs cover the entire geographical area in Canada and include images taken in every season. Published by Key Porter Books.



MARGARET ATWOOD: A REFERENCE GUIDE, 1988-2005

Shannon Hengen and Ashley Thomson, eds.

Authors Shannon Hengen, professor and chair of English at Laurentian, and Ashley Thomson, librarian at Laurentian, have assembled a reference guide that covers all of the works written by acclaimed Canadian author Margaret Atwood since 1988, including her novels *Cat's Eye*, *The Robber Bride*, *Alias Grace*, and the 2000

Booker Prize winner, *The Blind Assassin*. Rather than just including Atwood's books, this guide includes all of Atwood's works, consisting of articles, short stories, letters, and individual poetry. This new bibliography significantly enhances access to Atwood material. *Margaret Atwood: A Reference Guide 1988-2005* will appeal not only to Atwood scholars, but to students and fans of one of Canada's greatest writers.



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Awards and Accolades (continued from page 19)

The award recognizes his significant contribution over 20 years to the field of mine waste utilization and management.

Laxman, a full professor at Laurentian since 1993, is a leader in the field of environmental factors related to the mining industry. His main research activities cover mineral processing, with emphasis on the utilization, recycling, and processing of waste in the mineral industry.

In 2000, Laxman was chosen by the CIM as one of Canada's five "distinguished lecturers."

The Teck Cominco Environmental Award was created in 2004 by the mining company in order to promote innovation and development in environmental control technology for the metallurgical industry in Canada. The award recognizes significant contributions to the field of environmental science and engineering and sustainable development in Canada's metallurgical industry.

DR. HERB NABIGON BECOMES LAURENTIAN'S FIRST FULL NATIVE PROFESSOR



Dr. Herb Nabigon, who teaches in native human services, became Laurentian University's first native professor to earn his full professor's designation last summer.

"If the aboriginal community hadn't been behind me I would not have done it," he says, adding that he has received a lot of support from his non-aboriginal colleagues as well. "Laurentian has been really good to me since I got here."

In 2006, he published an account of his battle with alcohol in a book called *The Hollow Tree: Fighting Addiction with Traditional Native Healing*. Although Nabigon doesn't have a doctorate, his dossier, publications, and work experience helped move him along the road to a full professorship.

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY PHD STUDENT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH AWARD

Karen Rebeiro Gruhl, a PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Rural and Northern Health program, has received the Clinical Research Initiative Fellowship of \$186,667 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

The fellowship supports Rebeiro Gruhl's doctoral research on access to supported employment services and work for pay for persons with serious mental illness in northeastern Ontario. Through this research, she will explore people's experiences related to finding employment services and paid work in urban and rural northern communities.

Rebeiro Gruhl is an occupational therapist at the Sudbury Regional Hospital.

CIHR is the major federal agency responsible for funding health research in Canada.

TRANSITION STRATEGY FOR THE NORTHEAST SUPERIOR FOREST COMMUNITY

Institute of Northern Ontario Research and Development (INORD) researchers, **Dr. Sylvie Albert** and **Dr. David Robinson**, have secured \$1.625 million on behalf of the Northeastern Superior Mayors' Group.

The grant, given over five years, comes from Natural Resources Canada for a project called Transition Strategy for the Northeast Superior Forest Community.

In the tradition of INORD, the project is aimed at promoting economic and social development in northern Ontario. The six communities involved are: Chapleau, Michipicoten (including Wawa), Dubreuilville, Hornepayne, White River, and Manitowadge.

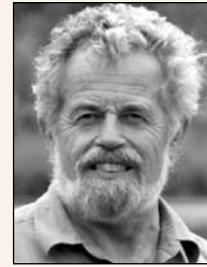
The project goal is to increase the capacity of the communities to add value to forest resources before and after harvest. The project involves the development of new training institutions, and expansion of a development corporation aimed specifically at promoting non-timber forest products.

THE CFI AWARDS \$57,420 TO LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has awarded \$57,420 to Laurentian University to support a project led by Professor Zhibin Ye of the School of Engineering.

CFI is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians, said a CRI press release.

LU PROF TO HELP ONTARIO COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE



Dr. David Pearson, a renowned professor of earth sciences at Laurentian, is one of two environmental academics the Ontario government has appointed to help Ontario deal with

the realities of climate change. Pearson joins Ian Burton, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, in developing a strategy for how Ontario can cope with the impact of climate change.

BURSARY HONOURS DR. THOMAS PETERS

In memory of the internationally-renowned pioneer in environmental causes and land reclamation, Laurentian University and the Mining and the Environment International Conference committee have created an \$80,000 bursary. **Dr. Thomas Peters** passed away on April 5, at age 84.

The environment conference was held this October at Laurentian. The Dr. Thomas Peters Memorial Bursary was established with funds raised at the third Mining and the Environment International Conference, held at Laurentian in 2003. The conference raised \$40,000 which the provincial government, through the Ontario Trust for Student Support program (OTSS), matched.

Every four years, Laurentian University organizes and hosts the prestigious International Mining and the Environment Conference. The fourth edition brought together technical experts, policy makers, and regulators from around the world to address mine, land, and waterway rehabilitation, as well as related environmental protection issues, under the theme of sustainability.

LAURENTIAN RESEARCHERS GET PROVINCIAL RESEARCH MONEY

Two Laurentian University researchers will share \$257,420 in provincial research funding to conduct research in their respective fields.

Mark Eys is a sports psychology professor and **Zhibin Ye** teaches in the school of engineering.

The Ontario Research Fund helps researchers obtain the tools they need to stay on the forefront of innovation.



NEW CHAPTERS

BY DAVID WHITE, BPHE 1983
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

IN THE PAST COUPLE OF EDITORIALS, I have spoken about the friendships we make while in university, and how these can last a lifetime. Today, I'd like to put a bit of a spin on the same idea, and talk about our alumni chapters.

Over the past couple of years, we have had a huge growth in chapter development, and now we have a variety of chapters, either associated through our academic programs or through interested groups in geographical areas. Our chapters include Ottawa, Toronto, Timmins, Sudbury, Vancouver, New York City, Georgian (Barrie), SPAD, Huronia, and the Laurentian campus. Each is unique in its size and stage of development.

The goal for alumni chapters is to "friend-raise," or to help reconnect Laurentian graduates with their alma mater. Popular chapter events have included golf tournaments, Christmas gatherings, or even class reunions. Despite their mandate to friend-raise, many chapter events have grown over the years and are now seeing profits; 100 per cent of these funds are aimed at helping current Laurentian students.

Starting a chapter is easy, and anyone can either launch or join a chapter by following simple steps that can be found in the chapter section of our website. Always keep in mind that our goal is to grow new friendships.

I would encourage everyone to call the alumni relations office at (705) 675-4818, or visit the alumni website at www.lualumni.laurentian.ca to see how to participate in a local chapter or even start a new chapter:

Students first – alumni forever.

LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Working on your behalf

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Alumni Communications Officer: Kimberly Nadon, B.Sc. 2007

Data Entry Clerk: Annette Laprise

Phone: (705) 675-4818 Fax: (705) 671-3825

alumni@laurentian.ca www.lualumni.laurentian.ca

Your alumni association continues to work on your behalf and we appreciate any feedback you can offer on our programs and services. Please send us an e-mail at alumni@laurentian.ca with your suggestions.

LUAA SECTION WRITER

Kimberly Nadon, B.Sc. 2007

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you would like to know more about the Laurentian University Alumni Association, any of the various Laurentian Alumni chapters, or if you would like to get involved, please visit our website: www.lualumni.laurentian.ca or give us a call at (705) 675-4818. We're always looking for participants with fresh ideas.

iPod Winner

Congratulations to Joshua Hull, BA 2007, who was this year's winner of an iPod sponsored by the Laurentian University Alumni Association.

Any 2007 spring convocation graduates who signed up for our online community were automatically entered for a chance to win the prize. Our online community helps our alumni stay in touch with friends and also offers mentorship opportunities. So join today!

www.lualumni.laurentian.ca



CHAPTER NEWS



Two smiling winners of \$500 in Laurentian tuition fee credits - what a way to start off university!

NEW STUDENTS OFF TO A GREAT START

This August, new students were welcomed to Laurentian University by alumni across the province during send-off parties that were our largest yet. Held in four locations across Ontario during the month of August, students from the Burlington, Barrie, Ottawa, and Sudbury areas came together for an evening reception aimed at preparing new students for campus life.

Hosted by our Ottawa, Toronto, Huronia, and Sudbury alumni chapters, the Laurentian University Alumni Association was pleased to present alumni speakers who shared their experiences at Laurentian and offered incoming students some words of wisdom. Laurentian president Dr. Judith Woodsworth and vice-president Dr. Susan Silverton greeted new students, taking time to speak to them individually and welcome them into the Laurentian family.

We look forward to seeing even more new and familiar faces at next year's send-off parties. Another way to help new students is through our mentorship program. To find out more about this program, visit our website: www.lualumni.laurentian.ca.

A PREVIEW OF UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Ottawa Chapter

Alumni NHL Night with the Sens – **SOLD OUT**
Saturday, December 15, 2007 at 7 p.m.

OHL Night – Come cheer on the Sudbury Wolves against the Ottawa 67s
Sunday, March 16, 2008 at 2 p.m.

2nd Annual Ottawa Chapter Golf Tournament – June 2008

SPAD Chapter

SPAD Alumni OHL Night at the Wolves
Saturday, January 19, 2008

SPAD Annual Golf Tournament
Date to be confirmed

Sudbury Chapter

Alumni OHL Night at the Wolves
Friday, February 8, 2008

President's Ball
Saturday, March 1, 2008

President's Golf Tournament
Thursday, July 10, 2008

Toronto Chapter

OHL Night – Come cheer on the Sudbury Wolves against the Mississauga Ice Dogs
Sunday, January 20, 2008

Toronto Theatre Night – 3 M6 Divas at the Winter Garden Theatre
Thursday, March 6, 2008

Vancouver Chapter

Alumni OHL Night at the Wolves
Friday, February 8, 2008

REACHING ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Sudbury Alumni Chapter
Ottawa Alumni Chapter
Toronto Alumni Chapter
Huronian Alumni Chapter
Laurentian@Georgian Alumni Chapter
On-Campus Alumni Chapter
Timmins Alumni Chapter
Vancouver Alumni Chapter
SPAD Alumni Chapter
New York Alumni Chapter

President, Dean Jacklin, BPHE 1992
President, Martin Soulière, BA 2005
President, Joseph Bowman, BSL 1991
President, Kyle Clarke, BPHE 2000
President to be announced
President, Daniel Robidoux, BA 1997
President, Louis Clausi, BA 1985
President, Daveen Morrison, BPHE 1976
President, Darryl Boynton, B.Com. SPAD 2003
President to be announced

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vancouverchapter@laurentian.ca
spadchapter@laurentian.ca
newyorkcitychapter@laurentian.ca

ONTARIO ALUMNI ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Northern Ontario rocks Prince Edward Island ...

Northern Ontario alumni are one of two types of people: either they remember the rocks of northern Ontario, or they remember how northern Ontario rocks! This June, both types of alumni from northern Ontario universities and colleges came together in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to



Alumni across the nation ... and across generations.

meet up with other alumni from their area. This was the first alumni collaboration of its kind, with participating institutions including Cambrian College, Nipissing University, Canadore College, Lakehead University, Laurentian University, and Confederation College. The event was a great success.

... and southern Ontario soars in Vancouver

At the end of June, the Southern Ontario Alumni Reunion (SOAR) hosted its 10th annual reunion, inviting all southern Ontario alumni from the British Columbia region to join in on the celebrations ... and our Vancouver alumni chapter was more than pleased to attend! To celebrate the milestone of 10 years of reunions, the SOAR event was kicked off on Saturday with an evening of fine food in the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel ballroom, followed by live jazz and dancing. The next afternoon, the annual beach BBQ drew alumni participants of all ages, many of whom competed in sandcastle building. The beach party also included entertainment, with a magician and a steel drummer on the scene.

COMMERCE / SPAD 1982 REUNION

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY – HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!



Commerce / Spad 1982 reunion

At the end of August, the commerce and SPAD classes of 1982 were reunited for the first time since their graduation 25 years ago, and many found their old campus had really changed (though they did attend Laurentian during the height of Olivia Newton-John and the Commodore-64). The group was greeted on Friday with an evening of cocktails in the Brenda Wallace Reading Room and a dinner reception followed the next evening at the West Residence – both buildings did not even exist back in 1982.

Though their campus seemed different, a display of photos and a yearbook from their graduating year surely helped trigger some distant memories of the place. The 1982 graduates fell into lively conversations with one another, almost as though no time had passed.

The reunion was a great success, filled with nostalgia and good conversation. The commerce and SPAD classes of 1982 left with a blend of old campus memories and new memories of their Laurentian weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please continue to visit our website at lualumni.laurentian.ca for updates on upcoming events.

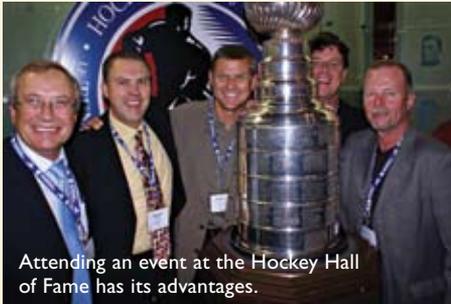
REUNIONS

**Native Human Services
20th Anniversary**
July 18-20, 2008

Nursing 1983 Reunion
Date to be confirmed



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF ALUMNI SUCCESS, SPAD-STYLE



Attending an event at the Hockey Hall of Fame has its advantages.



Dr. Judith Woodsworth thanks one of our gala sponsors, Frito Lay Canada.



SPAD students enjoy the opportunity to mingle with SPAD alumni.

On September 12, 2007, the school of sports administration (SPAD) celebrated 35 years of success by hosting a gala reception at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. And what a turn-out! Nearly 300 graduates, friends, and current students of the SPAD program took part in celebrations, making this one of the biggest events in alumni history.

The evening was highlighted by an inspiring keynote presentation by Richard Pound, who is not only the chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency, but is also an International Olympic Committee member, and SPAD's only honorary doctorate recipient. Pound's speech was made possible by a donation from the Canadian Olympic Committee.

A special thanks goes out to the sponsors of the gala, RBC Dominion Securities, Frito Lay Canada, London Life and Great-West Life, and the Toronto Blue Jays, whose contributions helped make this evening a success. Another

mention goes to Vincor Canada, which generously kept the wine flowing by donating its Inniskillin brand.

The evening raised close to \$50,000; this will help fund the SPAD Alumni 35th Anniversary Bursary and The Richard Pound SPAD Bursary.

After a full evening at the Hockey Hall of Fame, the festivities continued at a nearby downtown restaurant, the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, for a post-event party sponsored by Labatt Breweries of Canada. Students and alumni of all ages came together and memories and stories were exchanged well into the night. This was the largest and one of the most memorable reunions in Laurentian alumni history. It's a reunion that will be remembered for years ... or at least until the 40th!

To see more photos from this gala event and other alumni events, visit our website at: www.lualumni.laurentian.ca.



Dr. Judith Woodsworth with this year's winners of the President's Cup: Bobby Jones, Frank LeBreton, Dave Petryna, and Jim Christenson.

GOLF AND LAURENTIAN GO HAND IN HAND ... OR CLUB!

This summer, our Laurentian alumni kept themselves busy playing golf as

the alumni relations office hosted three big golf tournaments, each followed by an evening of great dining.

The Ottawa alumni chapter initiated the golf season at the beginning of June, hosting its tournament at the Meadows Golf and Country Club in Gloucester. All proceeds from the

tournament went toward the Ottawa Chapter Bursary. Soon to follow that event was the third-annual SPAD golf tournament, held at the Cardinal Golf Club in Kettleby at the end of June. This tournament, hosted by the SPAD chapter, offered prizes for best team, most honest team, closest to the pin, and longest drive for men and women.

Early July brought the final and largest golf tournament, the annual President's Golf Tournament, held this year at the Idylwyld Golf and Country Club. Although thundershowers were forecasted, nearly thirty teams of golfers played the better part of the tournament under the sun, and none were overly disappointed when the last few holes had to be left behind in the rain. The wonderful dinner that followed was enough to make everyone forget the stormy weather rumbling outside the club's walls.

Thanks to everyone who helped make these tournament an incredible success, and we hope to see even more golfing enthusiasts next year.

IN THE NEWS

**ALAIN GAUTHIER**

Alain Gauthier (PHED 2002), and currently a PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Rural and Northern Health program, received a prestigious doctoral research award from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). This is the first major doctoral award received by a Laurentian University student. The award, valued at \$66,000 (\$22,000 per year for three years), will support Gauthier's doctoral research on the physical activity patterns of Franco-Ontarians, specifically those living in northeastern Ontario. His research will further explore the combined effects of geography and culture on physical activity. It is his hope that the findings will lead to the development of health-enhancing strategies through physical activity. Dr. Nancy Young, Canada Research Chair, Rural and Northern Children's Health, is Gauthier's primary advisor. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the major federal agency responsible for funding health research in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada promotes and protects the health of Canadians through leadership, partnership, innovation, and action in public health.

ANDREA COTRONEO

MasterCard Canada recently announced the appointment of Andrea Cotroneo (BA 1995) as Canada Region Counsel. In her new role, Cotroneo is responsible for leading the legal function for MasterCard in Canada, and is a member of the Canadian senior management team. Most recently from Dell Canada, Cotroneo brings vast in-house and law-firm experience, including extensive knowledge of corporate, commercial, consumer, marketing, privacy and e-commerce law. Cotroneo holds an Honours BA in political science and languages from Laurentian University and a LLB degree from the University of Ottawa.

LOUIS DELONGCHAMP

Louis Delongchamp (BA 1971) ran as the Progressive Conservative candidate for the riding of Sudbury. Delongchamp, 58, worked for a firm of chartered accountants in Ottawa before teaching accounting courses at Algonquin College and at Cambrian College. He now manages real estate properties, is a member of the Greater Sudbury Chamber

of Commerce, and is a board member of the Friends of Museum of the Flour Mill. For the district of Sudbury, he claimed 7.93 per cent of the vote share, with Liberal Rick Bartolucci claiming 58.78 per cent. According to an interview with *Northern Life* on October 11, Delongchamp stated: "I am very disappointed at the results. The faith-based plank derailed the election. More important issues such as the onerous health tax, the lack of computerization of medical records, and job losses, especially here in the North, were ignored."

ANDREW SHANNON

Dyadem, a leader in lifecycle management and process risk management solutions, recently appointed Andrew Shannon (B.Com. 1994) its chief financial officer/ chief operating officer. Shannon is responsible for functions relating to finance, internal and external operations, IT, human resources, and administration. A seasoned senior level financial executive, Shannon began his career at Ernst & Young as a corporate tax manager;

before moving to SAS Institute (Canada) Inc. where he continued to increase his financial responsibilities in the areas of tax and financial analysis. Shannon has since held senior level financial positions at companies such as New Horizon Systems Solutions and EDS Canada, where he served as financial controller and acting CFO.

BETHANY STANELAND

In July, Bethany Staneland (BA 2006) made headlines when she completed a solo cycling trip around Lake Huron. Staneland, a Katimavik project leader based in Sault Ste. Marie, covered about 1,000 kilometres in Ontario and Michigan on her road bike over the months of June and July. In an interview with the *Sault Star* on July 22, Staneland explained her impulse to ride: "Usually when people go on vacation they have a hard time dropping their work or problems in their life, but when you start cycling it just clears your brain right out." Staneland plans to ride across Canada in the near future.

ALUMNI UPDATES

1970s

Chris Bamber, BSW 1976, with a concentration in social work, writes in with greetings to other alumni.

Penny Hartin, BSL 1978, with a concentration in political science, worked for CNIB for many years, running its operations in several provinces. Over the past 15 years, she was also involved with the World Blind Union (WBU), advocating for women's and human rights issues. When the WBU established its international headquarters in Toronto in 2006, she was hired as their first CEO, and is responsible for their operations worldwide. In 2006, she obtained a guide dog, named Oliana, who travels the world with her. Penny, her guide dog, and a cat, live in midtown Toronto. Penny was granted an honorary doctorate by Laurentian in 2000.

Stephanie Todd (Gregg), BPHE 1974, says that university taught her to live life to the fullest. She is a proud grandma of three children. Her daughter, Venessa of Calgary, gave birth to Ella Saara Byblow on April 15, 2006 in Victoria. Courtney and Connor were a welcome surprise from her son Todd. Stephanie and her husband are now empty nesters, as their son Wesley recently moved out West. Stephanie and her husband, newly retired from Falconbridge, have made recent trips to the US, Finland, Sweden, England, and Bonaire. They have made a point of getting together with university friends and hope to see many more friends at the 35th BPHE reunion.

1980s

Harold Haynes, BSW 1986, and his wife, Gloria, have become associates with Prepaid Legal Services of Canada. Harold believes this is an important way to provide people with better access to the legal system, and to protect their rights.

Shirley Pommier, BA 1984, received a diploma in fitness and lifestyle management at Laurentian, then taught activity courses in the ADVL program there for 10 years. She relocated to the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, in 1999, and returned

to her first career; nursing, after a 28-year absence. Six years ago, she recertified and renewed her RN licence in Vernon, and has since been working as a casual nurse throughout the province. In 2005, she went to Aurora College in Yellowknife, NWT, to take a condensed nurse practitioner course, and worked as a community health care nurse in several Dene communities in the North. Her two adult sons, Andrew and Scott, live in Vancouver and are pursuing careers as freelance artists (painting and photography). Shirley says she will always miss northern Ontario and her life on beautiful Lake Nepahwin, but is very happy in the Okanagan. She can be reached at: sapommier@hotmail.com.

Royal Senter, BA 1983, with a concentration in economics, has recently started a new job as regional chief of budgets and financial analysis with Correctional Service Canada. His first grandchild was born on August 19, 2007 – Brooklynn Ava Michelle.

Steve Wood, B.Eng. 1981, with a concentration in mineral resources engineering, is currently working in Indonesia for PTInco as vice-president of operations. When not working, he travels throughout Southeast Asia, mountain bikes, golfs, and plays squash.

1990s

Randy Bond, BA 1998, and **Christine Bond (Allen), BA 1998**, were married in Mexico in 2004 and now have an 18-month-old daughter named Taylor. Christine left her job in government housing to raise Taylor and is now a stay-at-home mom, while Randy is a first-officer pilot flying a 727 for Cargojet (a cargo/freight company based in Hamilton). They just moved into a home in Rockwood, Ontario, after living in Mississauga and Winnipeg. They look forward to connecting with old friends from Laurentian and the SSR residence.

Ted Corbould, BA 1995, has been working as an elementary school teacher in Bangkok, Thailand, for the last four years. In 2008, he expects to graduate with an MA in education. Since leaving Canada in 2003, he has visited 15 countries. He would like to

hear from friends, and can be contacted at: tcorbould@yahoo.ca.

Paul Milne, B.Com. SPAD (Hons) 1999, is a business teacher/chairperson at St. Joan of Arc High School. After graduating from Laurentian, he spent some time in the high-tech sector in Ottawa as a placement director. A few years later, he decided to become a teacher and is now teaching business studies at St. Joan of Arc School in Barrie. Besides spending time with his family, he enjoys coaching football and rugby.

Kristi Penny, B.Sc. 1999, married Laurentian alumnus Luke Sebben on September 23, 2007 in Orillia, Ontario. They welcomed their first child, Adelaide Penny, on July 19, 2007. They currently live in Orangeville.

2000s

Sophie Gauthier BEPS 2002, writes in from Kigali with greetings. She says she misses Canadian apples, but has been eating a lot of rice, beans, vegetables, and bananas. She has been organizing a fundraising dinner to set up a restaurant, and is also working to establish a youth employment centre. She is also helping to create an extensive database to connect Rwandese youth with national and international youth organizations.

Darren Janeczek, BA 2007, writes in with greetings to other alumni.

Kimberly Wilson, B.Ed. 2007, recently received the Ray Ryan Statistics Canada Prize for Curriculum Studies, valued at \$500. This Statistics Canada award is offered in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies. Kimberly was given the award on May 27, 2007, at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education's Annual Conference in Saskatoon. The award acknowledges Kimberly's excellent work in writing senior elementary school lesson plans for use by student teachers and field practitioners alike. Kimberly is currently taking her master's studies in geography at Carleton University. Kimberly also received a teacher assistant scholarship, valued at over \$9,000 for two years, and a \$7,000 graduate scholarship.

Three generations of Laurentian graduates

The Kaattari family is proud to be one of the first families with three generations of Laurentian University graduates.

THE FIRST GENERATION

Ray Kaattari graduated in 1962 as one of only four men from Laurentian University. To obtain his degree, he attended night classes and summer classes upstairs at the Empire Theatre and at the former Jackson and Barnard Funeral Home. Ray worked in elementary schools for 37 years, 28 years as a principal at seven different schools within the Sudbury school boards. He obtained an M.Ed. degree at the University of Ottawa in 1974 while on a year-long sabbatical. Ray has written four books over the years, including a book recording the history of his hometown of Garson called *Voices from the Past – Garson Remembers*, which was a

three-year project. Ray and his wife, Grace, have three children, Pam, Joanne, and Eric, and seven wonderful grandchildren. Ray is still enjoying life to the fullest, having reached the magical age of 75.

Grace Kaattari, who was also in teaching, graduated from Laurentian in 1980 with a BA in religious studies and anthropology. Grace has become involved in many social justice organizations, receiving a 2007 YWCA Women of Distinction Award.

THE SECOND GENERATION

Pamela (Kaattari) Mulligan graduated in 1981 from Laurentian with a BA (Hons) in political science. Pam married her high school sweetheart, Dan Mulligan, and they have three children, Kristy, Rebecca, and Riley. The family lives in Bracebridge, where Pam works at the assessment office. Pam is involved in many community organizations.

Joanne Kaattari graduated from Laurentian with a BA in political science in 1984. She studied for one year at the University of Helsinki. Joanne works in the non-profit sector, focusing on literacy and online learning. She volunteers with her church, among other organizations. Joanne lives in Barrie with her husband, Steve, and their two children, Nick and Evan.

THE THIRD GENERATION

Pamela's daughter Rebecca Mulligan graduated in 2007 from Laurentian with her B.Sc. (Hons) in biology. She now attends the University of Ottawa, and is pursuing her MA in immunology.

There are other families with three generations of Laurentian grads – more to follow in the next issue.



Rebecca Mulligan,
Pamela (Kaattari)
Mulligan, and Ray
Kaattari.

LOST ALUMNI

Help us find these graduates who don't receive the magazine or any other mailings.

Eileen Collett (Moss)	Beverley Whissell-Wickenden
Penny Gardiner (Cork)	Dolores Fisher
Donna Hyde (Douglas)	Charlene Howard
Nasreen Jordan (Gilani)	Susan King
Lynn-Anne Kusan (Veerdonk)	Debra Lister
Carol Mathew	Nancy McCaig-Tobias
Kelley McGuire (Hastie)	Elaine Migwans
Nancy Peters (Hutchings)	Mary Ortepi
Pauline St Onge (Leroux)	Louella Smith (Tobias)
Judy Vautour (Matheson)	
Maureen Voldock	

Please check with them first, and then call or e-mail us (alumni@laurentian.ca) with their current information. Thanks for your help.

LET US KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING AND YOU COULD WIN

Send us an update on yourself and you could win some cool Laurentian stuff. Just fax us at 705-675-4840 (and address it to Editor, Laurentian University Magazine) or write us at magazine@laurentian.ca. Keep it to about 100 words. We'll enter your name into a draw.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF OUR LAST DRAW:

Stephanie Todd (Gregg), BPHE 1974

GRAD KEEPS CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN TOP FORM



Rick McKie (PHED 2001) is based at CFB Petawawa, just west of Ottawa.

By *Laura E. Young*

Though he's been complimented on his full head of hair in the past, to this day, Rick McKie shaves his head.

It all started in 2003, when McKie served in Bosnia with the Canadian Forces as a fitness instructor. He wanted to help a local Bosnian family by raising money to buy them much-needed beds. The entire family had only one bed with a straw mattress. The father of the family had been injured in the Balkan War, so he slept on the mattress to rest up before a punishing workday. His family slept on the floor.

Because McKie was a civilian employee, he didn't have to wear a helmet at base camp. He stood out among the Canadian soldiers: "Needless to say, my hair was always nice and neat," he recalls. To help raise money, he put his hair on the chopping block – literally. If the camp raised 500 Euros he would shave his head on Canada Day in front of the camp. On Canada Day, there was 750 Euro, and McKie got his razor out.

"I left before I could see how the money was spent, but I was assured that there was one very happy family with brand new beds and mattresses," he says.

Since 2001, McKie, 37, has been a civilian employee with the Canadian Forces at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa. He is currently a coordinator of fitness, sports, and recreation for the Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

After finishing his physical and health education degree in 2001, McKie contemplated attending teachers'

college. But after his experience at Laurentian, he found that he "enjoyed adult education as opposed to [teaching] high school. It was outstanding. I was looking for a job where I could teach adult fitness."

McKie is also a certified personal trainer and lifeguard. For his six-month stint in Bosnia, he received the NATO Non-Article 5 medal for service in the

"We did a lot of good over there," he says. "I was never more proud of being Canadian."

Balkans and the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Award for those who have completed a tour in the Balkans. He has also received the 3M Coaching Award for his contributions to Canadian Forces Sport Coaching. McKie and his wife, Kimberly Brown-McKie, have three daughters: Alexandra, 10, Victoria, 6, and Olivia, 3.

This is McKie's dream job – he is one of several Laurentian grads across Ontario who ensures soldiers are fit enough to "perform like an athlete to their utmost performance." The main focus of a soldier's work is using weapons and "we're like the professionals who guide them."

Soldiers have to pass annual fitness tests, he says, including the battle fitness test. For this challenge, soldiers carry a 55-to 70-pound pack for 13 kilometres, clad in full army gear. They must finish

in less than 2.5 hours, and then do a fireman's lift and carry for 100 metres in a minute.

McKie can't get too specific about troops in the Canadian Special operations. But, like a hockey team, some specialize on the power play, he says. He has trained people who were deployed with DART after the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004, in Bosnia, and soldiers who have gone to Afghanistan.

As he recounts his experiences in Bosnia, McKie says he wants to avoid a public relations story for the military, but he feels the federal opposition is giving Afghanistan "a really bad rap. I've had lots of friends from every branch of the military over in Afghanistan; some haven't returned," he says.

While at Camp Maple Leaf in Bosnia, McKie organized sports clubs and leagues for the soldiers. They shared their old sports equipment with local children and taught them how to play hockey.

"We did a lot of good over there," he says. Soldiers rebuilt homes, swept properties clear of mines, and helped the country through its first war trial. "It was outstanding. I was never more proud of being Canadian than when I was over there." 🇨🇦

Laura E. Young is a journalist living in Sudbury.

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A COMEDIC TURN

By Carrie Ivardi

Sandra Battaglini grew up in Sudbury and graduated from Laurentian with a history and political science degree. She is now a professional actor and comedian living in Toronto, and this fall, she returned to her hometown to appear in the Sudbury Theatre Centre's production of *Mambo Italiano*. She has written five of her own solo shows, the most recent is *Hard Headed Woman*, which has been nominated this year by the Canadian Comedy Awards for best solo show.

Freelance writer Carrie Ivardi interviewed Battaglini to learn more about her journey into comedy and acting.

HOW DID YOU GO FROM BEING A HISTORY GRAD AT LAURENTIAN TO AN ACTOR AND COMEDIAN IN TORONTO?

When I finished my master's in history, I came to Toronto to do a marketing diploma at Humber. I was looking for something creative. I had done some plays at Laurentian through the Italian Theatre Group, but I didn't have any aspirations [of becoming an actor].

My first marketing research job was at Spencer Francey Peters. One of the consultants had a niece who was a street performer, and I was interested in that. I saw a Second City show and lost my mind – it was so funny! Second City markets their improv classes to people in business. They have a huge corporate side to their business at the Second City training centre.

So, I took a class at Second City in 1999. They have two levels, and after level one,



you do a show. I loved it! That's when things started changing for me.

WHEN DID YOU START DOING STAND-UP COMEDY?

In 2001, I really started doing stuff, such as cabaret nights, around Toronto. I had no fear because I didn't know anything. I dabbled in stand-up. I took more classes. I did all this working full-time until 2002. I finished classes at Second City then got hired to do *Tony and Tina's Wedding* with Second City for two years. It was an interactive play, and I was the mother of the bride.

“I've seen other comics yell at people, but I feel it's a privilege, not a right, to be on stage.”

At first, I didn't want to do *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, because I am Italian, so I felt typecast ... but it was the best thing I ever did. It was a sell-out show and I met great actors, people who are now my friends.

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER TONY AND TINA'S WEDDING?

That ended in 2004. Actually, I did a solo clown show. I studied clown in 2003 – a form known as Pochinko. Toronto is a big centre for it. It's a combination of European and native North American clowning technique. Basically, it's all mask work, based on the idea that there are six sides to the self. When you look at all sides of yourself, you laugh at the sheer ridiculousness of it all.

ARE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS SURPRISED THAT YOU GOT INTO ACTING AND COMEDY?

People [who know me] from Sudbury think it makes total sense. In my family, I was always the entertainer. I get it from my parents ... my mother is the real joke-teller. My dad is very straight-faced – silly, sarcastic. Both my parents figure in the stand-up that I do.

At first, my parents thought this was a hobby. Mom said, “Get it out of your system.” But I'm compelled to do it, and I perform every week – one place

in particular is a club called the Laugh Resort.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RECENT TRIP TO SUDBURY.

I was playing the mother of the bride in *Mambo Italiano*. I was here for three weeks, and it was amazing. It was neat, and crazy to be back, to see some of the old characters around Sudbury again.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY EMBARRASSING MOMENTS ON STAGE?

A little while ago, I was at the Laugh Resort. Someone [in the audience] said, “Just because you yell it doesn't mean it's funny.” I didn't expect that, I didn't have a comeback, and it was like a punch in the stomach. I've seen other comics yell

at people, but I feel it's a privilege, not a right, to be on stage. I automatically connect with the audience, so I don't want to insult them.

[With live performance] when it's amazing, it's like a rock concert. What I find incredible is you can do well for months ... then all of a sudden you have an off show. Anything can happen.

DO YOU EVER SEE YOURSELF GETTING INTO TELEVISION?

I've done commercials. I love acting on film. I'm hoping to break into that. But I wouldn't stop doing live shows. It's a lovely career, all the people you meet, the shows you make ... it's a happy accident.

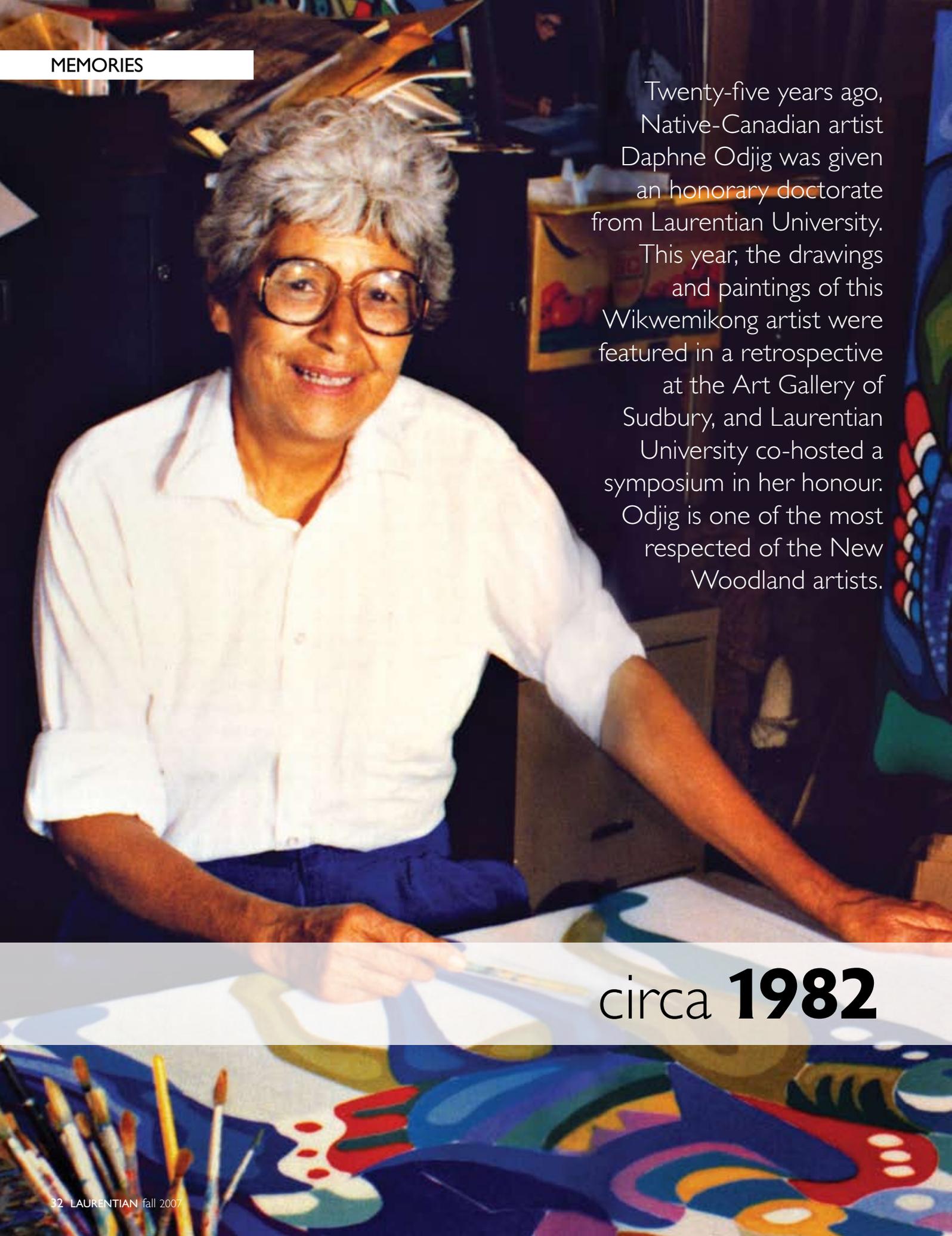
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

To be a full-time actor. It's hard. I'm not sure I will necessarily stay in Canada [because] there's only so much you can do here. There's less and less Canadian content. But in Toronto, there's so much comedy – it's the best place to perform.

I'm also turning my Laurentian history thesis into a documentary. It's about women who worked at Inco during World War II, and I'm calling it, *Don't Go Down the Mine, Momma*.

I'll be coming to Sudbury again in 2008, because the Italian Club at Laurentian University is celebrating 25 years, and I'll be performing in a cabaret show called *Hard Italian Cheese*. ■

Carrie Ivardi is a freelance writer living in Sudbury.



Twenty-five years ago, Native-Canadian artist Daphne Odjig was given an honorary doctorate from Laurentian University. This year, the drawings and paintings of this Wikwemikong artist were featured in a retrospective at the Art Gallery of Sudbury, and Laurentian University co-hosted a symposium in her honour. Odjig is one of the most respected of the New Woodland artists.

circa **1982**

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AS A LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY DONOR, you are expressing your faith in education and in our institution. For this, we are most grateful. We are proud to acknowledge and thank you. Our annual donor report is just one way of publicly recognizing those who support us. We also wish to thank those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous and those who leave a legacy by naming Laurentian in their will.

Your gift helps us fulfill our mission of providing high quality education, generating knowledge that meets the needs of our community. Your support enables students to reach their full potential. Many of our students tell us that a university education would be beyond their reach without such assistance.

We also extend sincere appreciation to employers who recognize the importance and impact of philanthropy by matching their employees' charitable giving. Donations made by employees and retirees of these companies can be extended far beyond their original value – thanks to the Ontario government, which continues to match donations directed toward student financial aid.

Your donation has the power to transform lives. It enables us to provide a unique educational experience at a university that is increasingly extending its reach. We are fortunate to count you among our friends and look forward to your continued commitment to Laurentian University.



The John C. MacIsaac Foundation Memorial Bursary From left to right: Christina Rousseau, bursary recipient, Judith Woodsworth, foundation representative, Marie-Claude Mallet, and Melanie Muise, both bursary recipients.

Thank you.

Judith Woodsworth
Laurentian University president, Dr. Judith Woodsworth

OUR DONORS

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May 28, 2007

Dear Lougheed Family,

I write this letter thanking you for choosing me to receive this award. I apologize for not writing sooner but I have been quite busy at school with the play "Guys and Dolls", track and field, and the E-Spirit Online Business Competition, along with a myriad of other commitments.

I am honoured to even be considered for this award. I can remember Mrs. Lougheed being the guest of honour at an award ceremony for St. Charles College when I was starting out. To see a family give so much back to the community inspires me to continue volunteering and helping others. I know that these words can't truly express the gratitude that I feel.

University is a needed step in achieving the goals that I have set for myself. University is also quite expensive, but with your help my financial worries are eased and I can look forward to my courses with an assured peace of mind. Giving back to one's community is a noble activity but also personally fulfilling. I hope to follow the example demonstrated time and again by the Lougheed family.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,

James Callaghan

Learn more about James Callaghan and his award on the following page.

† Deceased



1 Gift from the Brian McKee Knights of Columbus 1387

Eric Moles (left) and Richard Rivard (far right) of the Brian McKee Knights of Columbus 1387 presented a \$5,000 gift to Laurentian president Dr. Judith Woodsworth and Tracy MacLeod, director of development, at our Annual Awards Celebration.

2 The Gerald (KStJ) and Marguerite Lougheed Scholarship

James Callaghan, recipient of the The Gerald (KStJ) and Marguerite Lougheed Scholarship, is a first-year student in the Radiation Therapy Program at Laurentian. He is pictured with Gerry Lougheed Jr., Vice-President of Lougheed's Limited and representative for the Lougheed Family Scholarship. The Lougheed family is recognized in northern Ontario for its philanthropic accomplishments and commitment to caring for others. The Gerald (KStJ) and Marguerite Lougheed Scholarship was established in this spirit and to honour Gerry Lougheed Senior's Knighthood in the Order of St. John by former Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn in 1990.

3 Bill Wilson Memorial PMAC Bursary

Representatives of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada (Sudbury District) present the first Bill Wilson Memorial PMAC Bursary from their newly endowed fund at Laurentian University to David Corelli, a third-year Commerce student. From left to right: Ray Coutu (C.P.P.), David Corelli, Agnes Beck (C.P.P.) and Dr. Ozhand Ganjavi, director of the Faculty of Management.

DIVINE DANCING A FUNDRAISING EVENT

In 1985, Lata Pada, a professional dancer and dance instructor, flew to India for a performance. Two weeks later, her life changed when her husband, Vishnu, a noted INCO geologist, and their two daughters, Brinda, 17, and Arti, 15, boarded the fateful Air India Flight 182 on June 23 to join Lata in Bombay.

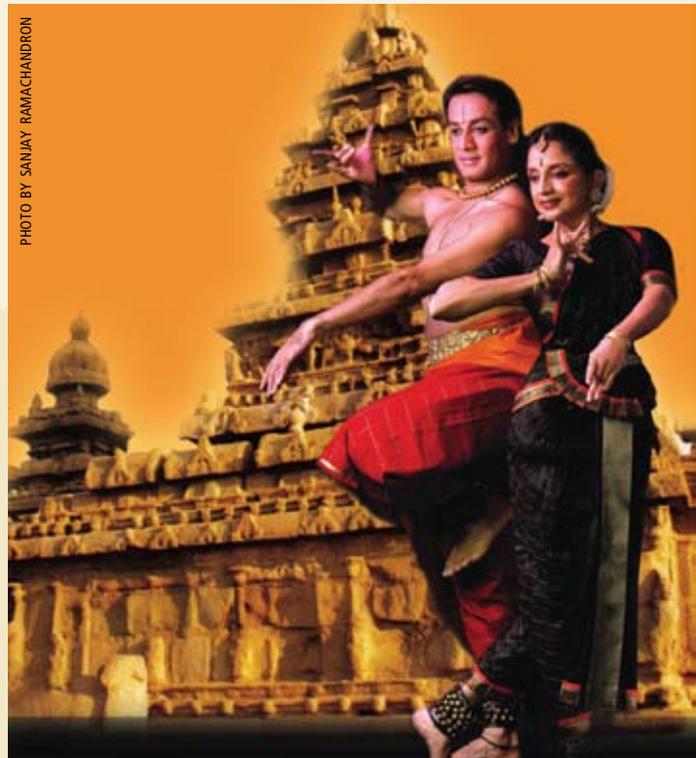
A strong advocate for the inquiry into Air India Flight 182, Lata credits dancing for helping her through the healing process. The Pada Memorial Scholarship was established by the Pada family, their friends, and associates, in memory of Vishnu Pada. It was created to benefit geology students at Laurentian University, the university Brinda had chosen to pursue her studies.

Creating this scholarship has also helped Lata find the strength to deal with the tragedy.

This past spring, Lata brought her Toronto Dance Troupe to the Fraser Auditorium for a dance fundraiser to create the Pada Memorial Bursary.

In a performance called "Dancing the Divine," the audience discovered India's epic history and mythology through the eternal legacy of its honoured deities and their celebrated temples.

Featuring seven dance works, "Dancing the Divine" marked the first time Lata performed since her 2002 performance in Soraab. She danced in two solos and a duet in the program. A highlight of the show was the role of the *sutradhar*, a narrator who invites the audience into the pilgrim's journey, as he traverses India travelling



to each of the temples. The eight *bharatanatyam* dancers of the ensemble performed the central dance work in the production.

Proceeds from this event, and the matched funds through the Ontario Trust for Student Support, were used to create the Pada Memorial Bursary. This bursary will be available to qualified applicants chosen from Marymount Academy Secondary School.

Alumni Updates

Take a few minutes to update us on what is going on in your life. We'll print it in the Alumni News section of the next *Laurentian University Magazine*. You can send us a photo as well.

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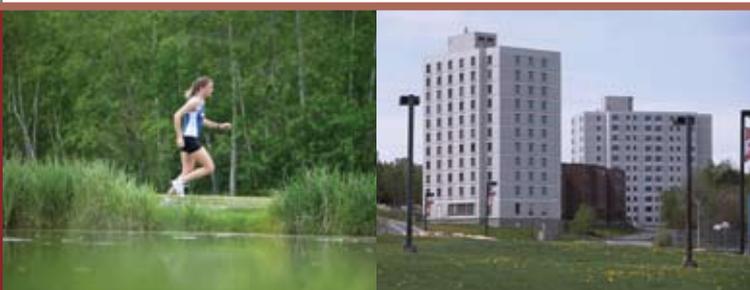
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